

Appl. No. 09/307,485
Amdt. dated December 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The preceding Amendment filed upon the filing of the Appeal Brief and before jurisdiction has passed the board, addressees the issues raised in paragraphs 2-4 of the non-final Office Action. More specifically, claims 1-11, 26 and 27 have been amended. It is believed that the corrections are merely clerical in nature and do not affect the claim scope one way or another. Further, it is believed that these amendments are fully supported by the specification as filed.

Election

Argument was presented in response to the restriction requirement. The present non-final Office Action does not address any of these arguments, but merely acknowledges the election. Applicant's believe a specific response to arguments is warranted.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection, Shkedy

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-15 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shkedy (U.S. Patent No. 6,260,024). Although the Office Action rejects independent claims 5, 11 and 27, no reasoning is provided for the rejections of claims 11 and 27. Applicant's believe that in this instance the non-final Office Action is also incomplete. The flaws in the reasons given for rejecting claim 5 will be addressed in the Appeal Brief.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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